

HEAVEN'S[®]

METAL

ALL METAL HARD ROCK ALL THE TIME



Aug/Sep 2007 Issue #70 \$2.95



BLOODGOOD

special flip double cover

DELIVERANCE
7 DAYS
GUY RITTER
ENDTIME FESTIVAL



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HEAVEN'S METAL

Metal is our business ... and business is good.

Maybe the business model isn't the best metaphor/cliche to use. I like the health/prognosis one better: Metal is in very good health these days – thanks to many men and women of God that are pouring their talents and heart into their art. So many good albums are hitting, and so many great bands are playing (quite well!) at many a live concert this summer. I can't wait to sample the great metal at the Sanctuary Tent and the HM Magazine Stage at this year's Cornerstone Festival.

As usual, this issue was crazy putting together – especially with the July/August issue of HM just going to press; preparing its online/digital version; getting ready for Cornerstone; all the while trying to get this issue to the printer. Without the help of this great "Karew," it wouldn't get done.

If you wanna help the scene, get involved. Buy a band's CD. Buy their shirt. Write them a letter of encouragement. Better yet, set aside a certain day of the week to pray for them. Lift them up by name and just spend several minutes, asking God to be there for them in whatever areas come to your mind. That's good stuff.

Grace and Peace,



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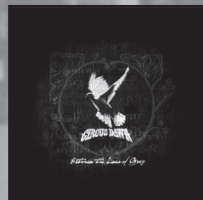
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Pieces Of Silence



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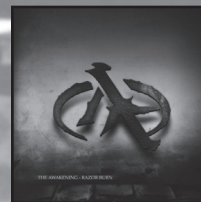
Between the lines of Gray



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METAL TRACKS

Hard-news-for-metal-heads



ENDTIME FESTIVAL

By
**JOHANNES
JONSSON**

The festival took place at Diezel in Halmstad, Sweden between 30 March and 1 April, 2007. 400 metalheads were gathered to rock for the Lord. The Friday gig started off with the hardcore band **The Middle End**. Since I'm not into this genre, I spent time talking to friends instead of watching their show. Overall, the social part is very important on events like this—hanging around with like-minded and meeting friends that you don't see very often is definitely half the fun. It feels like meeting a family, a family that always grows. The next band out was **Incrave** (formerly Evergrace) and they gave us some real Heavy Metal. They put on a good show and they have really improved a lot since I saw them at Nordicfest—much heavier, with a better live show now. **Frosthadr**, with their progressive, brutal metal was next—really cool with their snow machine that made it snow indoors! **Virgin Forest**, an all-girl band was a big contrast to all the other bands and didn't really fit in since they were way too soft compared to the rest. I mean, acoustic guitars and praise songs are cool, but it just didn't fit in among the other bands. **Drottmar** was next to enter the stage. They were very energetic, extremely fast and brutal, but way too chaotic for my taste. **Exhale** were very intense and brutal and gave us some real grindcore, but I wonder why a band like that—not Christian, but political—play at a Christian festival? The last band out was Viking Metal band **Vardoger**. They ended with the fantastic track "Silent Witness," which was the highlight for me this evening.

The Saturday gig had an amazing line-up, with great bands like Pantokrator, Crimson Moonlight, Antestor, Harmony and Veni Domine playing on the same evening! **Pantokrator** put on a really good set and they were both very heavy and energetic. I really liked the song "King of Babylon." **Inevitable End** then got the crowd going with their fast and intense thrashy music. **Veni Domine** put on a fantastic show and they were definitely the highlight for me. The set list was fantastic and they managed to choose the very best tracks from their latest albums,

as well as classics from their first two. They ended the gig with "Wisdom Calls." Torbjörn Weinesjö, the guitar player, was very inspired and even added some extra solos to the tunes. I have been to many gigs with Veni Domine, but this was definitely one of their very best gigs ever!

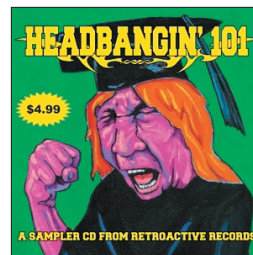
Crimson Moonlight was next, showing people how black metal should be played. They are so extremely fast and brutal. **Harmony** is a great live band, but unfortunately, this gig wasn't as good as it could have been since the singer had some serious vocal problems. They played a couple of new songs, as well as classics from *Dreaming Awake*, ending with "Eternity," truly a fantastic track and maybe their best ever.

Then it was time for **Vaakevandring** to play their last gig ever. They put on a great show. At the end of the gig, the band first read the Lord's Prayer and then they played "Fader Vår" (Lord's Prayer in Norwegian) giving God the full glory. The audience was singing along, lifting their hands and worshipping God—definitely the perfect ending for this great band! Another band that also played their last gig was **Antestor**. The first song they played was the classic, "A Sovereign Fortress." They put on a great show with both old and new classics. It's too sad that they won't play live anymore.

Besides music, there were also some other really cool happenings at the festival. One of them was the meeting at Johanneskyrkan, where the church was filled to the last seat with metalheads that love the Lord. During the meeting, members of **Extol**, **Vardoger**, **Virgin Forest** and **Pantokrator** talked about topics concerning faith and metal—just a really good conversation with lots of good points made. It was also very cool, when we long-hairy folks all dressed in black came out from the church afterwards, to see the reaction from people outside. They were looking at us very strangely, wondering who we were and what we had been doing in the church.

Photos from endtime-festival.com
Read more of this review at hnmag.com/heavensmetal

News bullets



Look at that CD (which came free to subscribers only)! Isn't it about time you subscribed to Heaven's Metal?

Brazilian black metal band **Mercy**, featuring members of **Sabbatarium**, **Apeiron** and **Krig**, have a new website at: mercy-music.tk.

Feast Eternal is looking for another guitar player that is willing to relocate and is very serious about playing in a Christian Death Metal band. A family and ministry oriented person will compliment the band very well. Contact Feast Eternal at matt@feasteternal.com.

Cornerstone's Day of Metal 2007 is almost here. *The Day of Metal 2007* CD will feature one track from each of the 11 bands playing, plus 5 songs from current and upcoming Bombworks Records' releases. Included in the track list will be an amazing never-before-released live track from **Aletheian**, as well as new unreleased tracks from many of the bands playing the fest, including **The Burning Issue**, **Deus Invictus**, **With Faith or Flames**, **Kibbroth Hattaavah** and **A Hill To Die Upon**. These compilations will debut at Cornerstone and will be sold for a limited time only.

Kekal has a new music video for "Isolated I" from their new release *The Habit of Fire*, at youtube.com

The **Stryper/Roxx Regime** 1983 demos are finally going to be released to CD on 7/07/07 (okay, actually 7/10/07). The CD contains no re-recordings or overdubs, just all of the raw power that got the band noticed and signed way back then. Pre-orders can be made at Stryper.com. The band is also currently writing and recording material for a new CD expected to be available in late 2007.

Sabbatarium's new EP has been released, and contains two classics covers, one each from Tourniquet and Trouble, plus a tribute song to Sentido Oposto, which you can grab for free at sabbatarium.tk.

Aletheian has signed on with Ironclad Recordings, which is a sub-label of Metal Blade, based out of the Boston, MA area, owned and operated in part by Trevor of Uneath. The band is honored to join their growing family. The label will be re-releasing the 2005 release *Dying Vine*, which will have a bonus track.

CPR Vol. 3 is now open for submissions! CPR stands for Christian Progressive Rock! The first two collections were very well received by the progressive rock community and have encouraged positive and strong results for this genre of music. CPR has featured such artists as **Kerry Livgren** (Kansas, Protokaw), **Neal Morse**, **Rick Wakeman** (Yes) with **Ajalon**, **Dave Bainbridge** (Iona), **Glass Hammer**, **Salem Hill**. For more info, visit cprock.com.

Once Dead is currently in the studio putting the finishing touches on their debut album, *Visions of Hell*, which is due out the fall of 2007 on Open Grave Records. Look for a killer story in our next issue.



Meet the Press



CHRIS BECK

Age: 34

Fav style of heavy metal:

Female-fronted symphonic motion picture metal

Fav Christian metal albums of all time:

1. Extol – *Burial*
2. Impellitteri – *Screaming Symphony*
3. Extol – *Undeceived*
4. Theocracy – *s/t*
5. Bride – *Live to Die*
6. Impellitteri – *Eye of the Hurricane*
7. Believer – *Sanity Obscure*
8. Balance of Power – *Perfect Balance*
9. Rob Rock – *Holy Hell*
10. Deliverance – *s/t*

Fav Movies:

The Lord of the Rings trilogy

Fav TV Shows:

You mean there are stations other than NFL Network and ESPN? Fav shows include *The X-Files*, *The Simpsons*, *Seinfeld* and *The Twilight Zone*.

Interesting fact/something goofy:

I have been happily married to my wife, Lori, for over 12 years. We have two children, er...cats that we treat like children named Philly and Lucy. I am a HUGE football fan. I played football in college and still play an occasional flag football game. I had the opportunity to meet my all-time favorite player, Dan Marino, earlier this year. Fav Scripture verse is Romans 8:18 (NIV): "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."



JEFF MCCORMACK

Age: 40 years more mature, wiser, & manlier

Fav 2006 metal albums:

Pyramaze – *Legend of the Bone Carver*
 Demon Hunter – *The Triptych*
 Hammerfall – *Threshold*
 Narnia – *Enter the Gate*
 Veni Domine – *23:59*
 Final Axe – *Axe of the Apostles*

Fav metal albums of all time:

Stryper – *Yellow and Black Attack*
 Galactic Cowboys – *Space in Your Face*
 Deliverance (1989)
 Tourniquet – *Stop the Bleeding*
 Impellitteri – *Screaming Symphony*
 Warrior – *Fighting for the Earth*
 Dream Theater – *Six Degrees...*
 Metallica – *Ride the Lightning*
 Iron Maiden – *Piece of Mind*
 Michael Schenker Group – *MSG* (1981)
 Saxon – *Denim and Leather*
 Alice Cooper – *The Last Temptation*

Favorite TV: *Seinfeld*, *Friends*, *King of Queens*, *Gene Simmons Family Jewels*, *Bones*

Pet's Name:

Dixie, my golden retriever

Interesting fact/something goofy:

I used to run *The Pendragon* magazine back in the late 80's, and the logo of my mag was created by Keith Miles (Final Axe/Titanic). I introduced Jamie Rowe to Guardian, and he became there singer (pat on my back...lol). I loved the 80's... I liked the flash and showmanship of the 70's and 80's and often wish my band (hemotherapy.com) would wear flashy clothes, or cool costumes, or maybe even make-up (like Kiss, not Poison). I think the idea of putting on a phenomenal rock stage show like the days of Alice Cooper, etc. has been lost in this day and age. Whatever happened to the show?

Jerusalem now has a MySpace site at myspace.com/JerusalemUlfChristiansson

ReinXeed is a new band fronted by **Tommy Johansson**. They play excellent melodic power metal and are currently recording their debut album titled *The Light* on Rivel Records. Check out this amazingly talented band and listen to the title track on myspace.com/reinxeednorth

Pantokrator has added the tune "Words of Agur" from the upcoming *Aurum* album to their myspace site [myspace.com/pantokratorofficial].

Lars Walfridsson is the new bass player in **Majestic Vanguard**. Since Lars is the new bass player, **Andreas** now plays the second guitar, which means the band has two guitar players again. [majesticvanguard.net]



You'll soon be hearing about a new band called **Cauldron of Puke**, which Brutal Planet Distribution will exclusively distribute. The release will be a spoof of the mainstream band Cradle of Filth and will feature a couple of vets from the metal scene, including one with virtual icon status. The identity of the band members will remain a secret as well, per their request.

Bombworks Records has acquired the rights to release the demos from Indonesian cult underground black metal band **Bealiah**. *Anthology of the Undead* will collect 13 songs from the Bealiah demos onto one CD, completely re-mastered for maximum brutality.

South Australian band **Synнове** are entering the studio in July to record their first full-length for relase by Soundmass. Tentatively titled *The Whore and the Bride*, this epic will move away from their symphonic/gothic influences to a rawer, twin-guitar black metal sound. It will contain doses of doom and death, along with a dialogue between brutality and beauty, dissonance and harmony, groove and chaos!

Becoming the Archetype's new record, *The Physics of Fire*, is doing great. The album has scanned right around 7,000 units in 4 weeks! They also just got into the Top 10 at CMJ.

Messengers is the title of the second record from Lancaster, PA quintet **August Burns Red**. The Solid State label says it's "more than just a collection of 11 raging metal songs that ravage the ears of their listeners with technical skill and immense passion." The band adds that it was a lyrical collaboration, too. "We all contributed to the lyrics on this one whereas on *Thrill Seeker* our singer did all the writing. We all offered different ideas. Each of us wrote a set of lyrics and we'd pick a song we thought they'd fit with. It was a collaboration rather than one person." Co-produced with the band and Tue Madsen (The Haunted, Himsa, Dark Tranquility, Extol), the band wanted "to continue with what our style is – stay in our niche – but expand upon it." The album ranges from the heavily throbbing, double-bass-driven "Composure" to the crushing "An American Dream," a song that drags the listener along by Luhrs' callous screams and the band's penchant for driving, metallic guitar riffs and intricate drumwork.

Wind-Up Records reports that, in an industry-wide sales slump, the *Creed Greatest Hits* CD is still selling between 4,200 and 4,750 units per week.

METAL TRACKS

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DELIVERANCE!

Just got the latest issue (Virgin Black on the front). Just wanted to say it's great to get a *Sampler CD* with this one!You might have had sampler cds with previous Heaven's Metal fanzine issues, but this is the first one I've got with the *Sampler CD* included – as I get it through soundmass.com here in Australia.. The *Sampler CD* is great, cos it exposes some bands that otherwise I might not ever discover. Thanks. Also I've been getting the fanzine ever since it was re started... Keep it up ... I love it ... and I notice on your blog that you're tossing up between Bloodgood and Deliverance for the next issue's cover ... Go for the Deliverance cover IMO! I love the new D CD – their best for a long time! And please review the new My Silent Wake CD and the new Ikarian CD. (please don't publish this letter though – I'm just sending it to you).

–Jeremy Woods, Australia

Ed – My answer to the cover dilemma: "How 'bout both?!" Thanks for allowing me to print your letter after threatening you. Ha ha.

WHERE IS MY HAIRBRUSH?

Where is my new Heaven's Metal Magazine? I was supposed to receive it by the 15th of May and it's already the 22nd. What's going on? Please help me! –Melecio Saenz, via internet

Ed – I bet your headbanging mailman "borrowed" it for a couple weeks before it arrived in your mailbox. Those *Sampler CD*'s are hard to resist.

WHAT EDITOR SAYS?

Thanks for churning out such a wonderful magazine. I read it all the time and I read everything in it. I'd like to see more spiritual and philosophic conversations with more bands – whether Christians or not. This brings me to my next question. What are your thoughts on bands such as Dimmu Borgir and Lamb of God? As a 23 year old Christian, I am struggling to differentiate between sensationalism to sell music/create a band identity versus actually promoting evil – whether subtle or blatant. It's hard to tell the difference and frankly I'd like the opinion of someone who has more experience in the world of metal. I just picked up a sampler with Dimmu Borgir (song: "The Serpentine Offering") on it and checked out their myspace. It makes me wonder... What are your thoughts on this topic?

–Jon, Cincinnati, Ohio

Ed – Good question. I've interviewed both bands (as well as Cradle of Filth. Lots of friends (like

Rockets & Drapes Kandy Kane) used to say, "Most of those so-called Satanic bands are a joke, but Dimmu Borgir are for real." It's hard to really judge a person's outlook based upon a simple conversation, but my impression from Cradle of Filth's Dani, Dimmu Borgir's Astennu and Lamb Of God's Mark Morton, were that they were all thoughtful, intelligent guys for the most part, and fairly antagonistic to the impression of Christianity they have been exposed to, and not decidedly evil or into classic Satanism (which is like pure hedonism). Astennu said: "A Satanist is stupider than a Christian, probably, overall. It's the same thing to me." Lord willing, I will get another volume of the *Rock Stars & God* book published, maybe under the title *Rock Stars & Jesus* or ... who knows, maybe *Metal Stars On God*?

HAVE YOU HEARD OF BTA?

Hey Doug, my name is Nathan Argall. I've been getting an HM Magazine subscription for a few months now and it's pretty awesome! I just wanted to let you know, (and I'm sure you've heard of the band), but *Becoming the Archetype* is coming out with their second album May 8th, called *The Physics of Fire*. I've heard some of the material and it is some powerful metal! I'd love to see them in the mag some day, man; possibly even on the front cover? What would you think? Sorry if this is really old news or if I bothered you, just thought I'd let you know!

–Nathan Argall, via internet

Ed – I totally agree! *Becoming The Archetype* is a great metal band. I'd love to see them on the cover of HM, too. And forget about it: your email suggestion doesn't bother me in the least!

DIO SAYS WHAT?

About 10 or so years ago you guys ran an interview with Ronnie James Dio in the "So & So Says" section. I've since lost the issue and can't seem to find it online anywhere. I was wondering if you have a copy I can read. At the time, I didn't know who Dio was. I've since become a fan and was wondering what he thinks of Christianity. If there's a way I can get a copy, let me know. Thanks!

–Joe, via internet

Ed – I tell ya, I need to get that *Rock Stars & Jesus, Volume 2: The Metal Stars* (or some such title published)!! I think you could boil down Dio's argument to that he didn't think the New Testament was a reliable document (at least at the time of that interview, which was a good'n).

[nothin' but] News bullets

Roxx Productions are currently seeking submissions for a new compilation entitled *Acoustic Metal Alchemy*. "We are looking for really heavy artists such as yourselves, toned down to an acoustic format. Are you up for a challenge?" This project will be released in a limited edition quantity of 1000. [roxxproductions.com]

The Showdown is slated to join the *Ozzfest Tour* this summer for 24 dates nationwide, making the band the only Christian act to be included on the bill. In addition, each step of the way will be documented by the band in an exclusive online tour blog at HM Magazine's site [hmmag.com] The song "Temptation Come My Way" has also found a #2 spot on the New & Active for Rock radio. It is part of a *Digital Sampler* download card that HM is giving away this summer with all new paid subscriptions. The album *Temptation Come My Way* opened strong first week out with a #191 spot on Billboard Magazine's Top 200 Album chart, as well as a #6 spot on the Heatseeker's chart, and #15 spot on the Christian Album chart. In addition, *Temptation...* landed a #45 spot on iTunes Rock Album charts. With over 4,500 units sold out of the box, the album has set a record as Mono Vs Stereo's biggest-selling debut in the label's history. For the band's first video, they brought in Doug Spangenberg, who has directed videos for Norma Jean, This Is Hell, and Terror, as well as Lamb of God's 2005 gold-selling DVD *Killadelphia*. Filmed on the same grounds used by MTV's *Jackass* crew, the video will reflect the band's 80s style and features some serious explosions! Frontman **David Bunton** says, "This music video captures the true spirit and feel of The Showdown. No holds barred, heavy metal, pyro, and headbanging. That's what we're all about. The goal for our first video was to give people a small taste of how rude we can be live. Heavy metal is plugged in and loud. Heavy metal is the law." [amen...]

It seems like they still love metal over there... The next two cover stories for HM Magazine include **As I Lay Dying** and **Demon Hunter**; while the July/August issue featured **Project 86** cover story. That *Digital Sampler* also features **These 5 Down**, **Feast Eternal**, **Frost Like Ashes**, **A.W.A.S.**, **Kekal**, **Project 86**, and **Becoming The Archetype** (to name a few)...

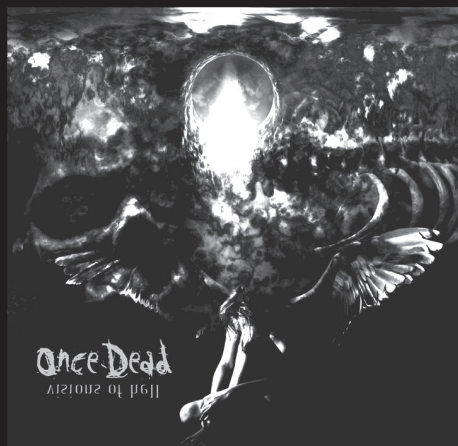
Rick Cua has a new album coming out with TAG Artist Group, *Won't Fade Away*. It includes the work of several songwriters, including **Bob Halligan Jr** (who penned "Living After Midnight" and "Breaking The Law"). "A lot of the songs I write have a worship slant," explains the former Outlaws bassist. "It's what I've done for years. It's a natural thing. They will be congregational, but will also be energetic and pretty vibey. Musically, the recordings will rock with appropriate aggression and an uplifting message."

Still Remains are releasing their second album on Roadrunner Records in July – *The Serpent*.

Tim Lambesis (As I Lay Dying) is co-producing the new Sworn Enemy album, slated for a fall release on Abacus.

Ted Nugent makes a cameo on the new **David Crowder** album, *Remedy* (due out in September).

The two most anticipated albums this year



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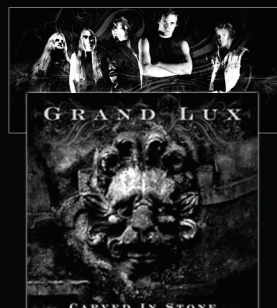
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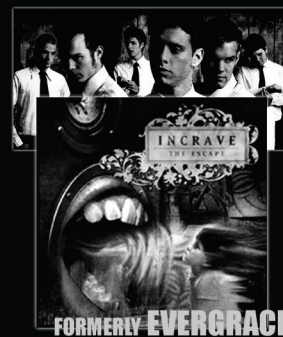
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FORMERLY EVERGRACE

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



INTERVIEW BY TODD WALKER

A CONVERSATION WITH GUY RITTER

IT IS TIME FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF "WHERE ARE THEY NOW?" THIS TIME WE LOOKED UP GUY RITTER, FOUNDING MEMBER AND VOCALIST FOR LEGENDS TOURNIQUET, AS WELL AS HOLY DANGER AND ECHO HOLLOW. HE WANTED TO GIVE SOME ADVICE AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE NEW BANDS THAT ARE OUT THERE. WE HAD A LONG INTERVIEW AND WE HIT THE HIGHLIGHTS FOR YOU HERE, BUT KEEP CHECKING HMMAGAZINE.COM/HEAVENSMETAL FOR THE FULL INTERVIEW. ENJOY...

TW: Hey, Guy!

GR: Hi, Todd.

At what website can our readers go to catch up with you?

They can go to guyritter.com and follow the links to Echo Hollow and "Tourniquet Museum." In conjunction with this interview, I put some old demos and pictures up there to make it fun.

What do you do professionally now?

I support Avid editing systems. Ninety percent of all movies and TV shows are cut on an Avid. I work in Hollywood at a post production facility called The Post Group. I have worked on a lot of movies like Fifth Element, Titanic, Prince of Egypt, Jackie Brown, Frost, Babe, Nacho Libre, and Astronaut Farmer. We transfer 35mm Film from "CSI," "Numb3rs" and "House" every morning.

Do you consider yourself successful?

I thought about that this morning. By the world's standards I probably would say that yes, I am successful in my job. But as a dedicated Christian, I don't think the term is really applicable. "Success" sounds like a finish line to me. As Christians, we really don't have a finish line. I have never met a missionary that said, "We did it! Let's go home!" (laughter)

So, are you still active in your local church?

Oh Yeah! Definitely very active in my church. Right now I lead a "college life" Bible study group at my church that we have anywhere from 12-20 college-age people, anywhere from 18-35 years old in a college group setting. It's an accountability group and it's under the umbrella of my church, which is Shepherd of the Hills Church in Porter Ranch, CA. That is very important to me. Every other week we have a Bible study at my house and people don't go home!

And I understand you have a family. You've been married close to 10 years now, right?

Yes, just 9 years. My son just turned 2 years old. I have a son and a daughter and she is 4. They are both really creative and really funny kids.

I wanted ask about Gary but take it in a different direction. Being such good friends with Gary, how have you dealt with his sudden reversal?

Well, let me say this. Gary will always be my friend. We have been through the best and the worst times together. We went through some hard times and that is what solidifies a friendship. I guess in all respect to Gary, because he will probably read this ... let me turn this around. If Gary was being asked this question because I was the one who turned away, I know for a fact

Alter Boys
 Angelica
 Barnabas
 Barren Cross
 Believer
 Bloodgood
 Bride
 Circle of Dust
 Daniel Band
 Deliverence
 Disciple
 Guardian
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that Gary, with all of his knowledge of the Word, would say something like, "It just goes to show that anyone can fall away from God if they are not daily cultivating a relationship with Jesus. If you want to resist the enemy it is vital to stay in the Word and in fellowship with believers." I think I will leave it at that.

So what was the highlight of your musical career?

Highlight would probably be when we were playing Cornerstone. That was an amazing rush for somebody to play a concert like that. I have to throw in this funny story about playing Cornerstone. Erik Mendez yelled to me one day while I was trying to walk across Cornerstone. The place was pretty big and he yells, "C'mon. You don't have to walk all the way over, just jump in!" So I jump in this golf cart with Erik thinking that he had permission to drive this cart! (laughter) So we go riding across this field, looking crazy. I looked at Erik and said, "Who gave you this golf cart?" and he goes, "What do you mean?" Now I am really intrigued, "Who gave you permission to ride this golf cart?" And he looks at me and says, "Nobody!" I just started laughing. "You can't just take a golf cart! Whose is it?" And he says, "I don't know!" (laughter)

Are there any misconceptions about you after you left Tourniquet that you want to clear up?

It is common for band members to have disagreements after going separate ways. When we parted ways, we had an agreement to respect one another and to avoid any negative talk going forward. However, there were some comments made by both sides that shouldn't have been

made. The things I said were out of frustration from hearing stuff that Tourniquet had said about me, mainly after shows. That said, it would be nice if Ted called or wrote me someday. He can reach me through guyritter.com. I am sure that if we talked, we would have a great conversation. We have a lot to reminisce about. I would apologize too for anything I've said to hurt his feelings out of frustration. I am sure it will happen someday. I would also like to ask Luke why he wrote "Caixa de Raiva." I would prefer that we all make amends for the things we have said or done.

So do you have any musical projects in the works now, or future plans to do any more music?

I am actually working on children's music right now. I have a website called playtownrecords.com. I have 3 songs posted right now so go there and check it out. I would love to hear from people who have kids and get some feedback on the songs that are up there. They can email me at heyguyritter@yahoo.com or from the link at the site. And also, another band may be in the works in the future ... I am open to that.

After all of the years in this business, is there anything you would like to pass on to the bands that are out there now?

Sure. I think that as I look back and sometimes when I read some of the interviews with the younger bands I think, "Man, I hope they are doing this for the right reason and I hope they stay strong," because it is so easy to get off track when you get busy and you start to be successful in music. We need to be able to wake up each

morning and say, "Lord, what do you want me to do today? Where do you want me to go today?" That means even if you have to quit the band that you are in, or change jobs, or move to a third world country. In 1983, I escorted a band named Servant to a concert hall and I asked them, "What's the secret to a band staying committed to God?" And they said, "You have to daily work to keep your relationship with Christ fresh." As far as Christian bands, most pastors will tell you that if you are not accountable to a ministry of some kind, there is probably a 99 percent chance you are going to fail. If you really do want to be fruitful, then you really do have to be plugged in.

Anything else before we end this?

It was fun to go back and look through this stuff and try to remember some of these stories (see full online interview). I have been thinking as I have been reading articles recently in HM that it would be fun to hear again from "so and so" who has been around for a while and can offer some encouragement from mistakes and who can encourage some of the younger bands. I was thinking I would like to do that. I really appreciate it.

Thank you, Guy.
 Thanks! Good night.

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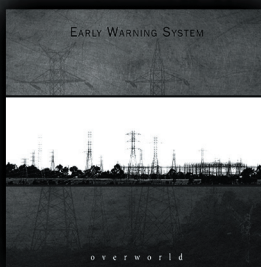
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BLOODGOOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN A BAND THAT KNEW HOW TO DELIVER THE METAL GOODS. AFTER WITNESSING TWO SHOWS IN NASHVILLE RECENTLY, I'M EAGERLY EXPECTING EVEN GREATER THINGS AT THE HM MAGAZINE STAGE AT THIS YEAR'S CORNERSTONE. A FEW HOURS AFTER BAILING ON AN INTERVIEW TIME THAT I HAD PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO, I RAN INTO THE GUYS AS THEY WERE TANKING UP ON COFFEE. I WHIPPED OUT MY RECORDING DEVICE AND CAUGHT WITH THIS OLD BAND TO SEE WHAT WAS NEW. TURNS OUT THE WHOLE BAND WAS A NEW THING ... FOR ALL OF THEM - INCLUDING THE RECENTLY BORROWED STRYPED WONDER, OZ FOX.

"It's a brand new band," states vocalist Les Carlsen. "New attitude. This is not a 'reunion tour.' No. We did what we did, but now we're a new band. We're older, wiser, but we're talented and we're ready to rock ... with new stuff." (The new demo's I heard through a set of car stereo speakers sounded really good - mixing later Bloodgood hard rock melodic sensibilities with that metallic bite that's bold and unashamed in this musical age...) Michael Bloodgood affirms, "Oz being in the band gives us, in our minds, a legitimacy in the conviction that we're a new band. We have our catalog and I love what we did, but we're really looking forward to the new stuff and going to new places that we couldn't and didn't before. New songwriting impetus, different ideas that we didn't have before - we're just kind

of going along for the ride."

What are one, two, or three lessons you learned from the past that you are going to utilize for this new incarnation - maybe things you're avoiding or things you're going to do this time?

"The great thing is we don't have anything to prove," states Michael. "We're just gonna walk as the Lord tells us to walk. We're not going to apologize for what we do. We're not going to bowl people over, but we're not going to apologize for what we do, either. I think that's one lesson that we've learned. It's just great being with veterans that are great players and good men of God and just having a great time.

"We're just gonna walk as the Lord tells us to walk. We're not going to apologize for what we do..."

I just love being where we're at right now."

Oz chimes in with excitement, too: "I think ultimately, to be honest, there's not a plan. I think it's just God guiding the band into something new and fresh ... and still keeping the identity of the band and the whole vibe of what this band is capable of doing. In a sense, what we've always done - but fresh. That's my vision of the whole thing and what I sense is starting to happen."

"We're actually excited about the songs," explains Les. "I know Mike's got some songs. I've heard a little bit of what Mike's started. As soon as I heard it, I was like, 'Oh my gosh!' I'm inspired by it. The things that Oz and I are doing - we're actually excited to get back and start writing. And lyrically, I feel like I'm totally free to let things just flow out of me. And I'm willing to go in areas that I wouldn't have gone before. We're trying stuff."

"We can add Paul to this," interjects Oz, "because Paul Jackson's got some creative ideas that seem to take you to places where his tastes and talents are motivating us to take on a different side of our thoughts, of our creativity."

"Paul and I wrote that 'Father, Father' that I played for you in the car," describes Les.

"And that was amazing," says Oz. "I sat down and helped him arrange it and we just kind of put the whole thing together. It's just amazing to see the creative talents that we have here and the possibilities are endless. For a heavy metal band, being what Bloodgood is, I *really* feel like this is a way to bring back a new surge of interest in this kind of music - and not be like the old days - be something fresh and something attractive. All things considered, everyone's saying, 'Metal's coming back,' well, this is kind of an updated way of doing the metal. Cuz we've all kind of grown in our music and our influences have grown over the years - with all of the newer groups being out and whatnot. I've kind of done my thing with Stryper - and still doing it - but at this point in time it seems like I'm needed in this area for what's happening now. And Les - he's got so many fresh ideas! I can give him some rhythms on guitar that are just silly little rhythms and he'll turn them into gems with his lyrics and his melodies. His ideas are just really thoughtful and creative."

"Thanks, Oz," Les says affectionately.

I really liked what I've heard. In a sense, I think we're really making history here; because with the formation of rock and black soul, Gospel music, rock and roll and the formation of metal and Hendrix and Zeppelin and Deep Purple and all that - and the 80s British metal invasion... All this is like first-ever in music history, and now here we are, doing something that's brand new - history is being made with this new hybridization of what you're doing. We don't have a blueprint for how it's going to look or what it's going to happen...

"That's exciting," they all chime in. "It's like being on the edge now," Oz champions."

"We don't need no stinkin' blueprints," Les adds in his best old-time movie (*The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*) accent.

"A new cutting edge, man," Oz already feeling comfortable correcting his frontman and bringing the interview back to the serious. "That's awesome. I love it, but that's our God. He's fresh. It seems like the music never stops with Him, you know? I love that."

"You know," Michael reflects, "it's been really encouraging for us being here (GMA), just to get the reaction from - not only fans - but other players. The guy from Disciple goes, 'You're the reason I'm playing music.' Really? Just to see that kind of encouragement and the energy level and the creativity and it just blesses people that Oz is a part of this, because they're going, 'Oz Fox is part of this? He's playing...' They kind of go, 'Tilt! TILT! This is so cool!' And it is. It's just this whole new chapter that hasn't been done before. I just can't wait to see where it takes us. I'm so pumped about the new material. We're shopping for a new producer right now and just can't wait to see where God's gonna take it. And we're all at a point in our life where we'll take it. We'll go where God calls us to go. We don't really have restrictions, so it's just kind of a blank slate again - like it was when we



started the band. It's kind of amazing. This all kind of happened in many different ways with all the five of us - how the Lord just kinda put us back into a place where we're going, 'Wow!'"

"And we're not really trying that hard," Oz affirms.

"We're not striving," says Les. "Really."

"That's the beauty of it," sums up Michael, "the Lord is just orchestrating us."

"We're trying to get the album out by next Thursday," jokes Les. "I don't know if we're gonna make it."

And the band erupts into their common and comfortable-around-each-other laughter. Les starts praying, "Lord, we need an album by next Thursday..." And Michael reaches into his bag and hands Les a CD. "Not that one!" Les protests, but Michael chides him for not "being specific enough" in his prayers and then turns to his interviewer and says, "See? There's a lesson learned!" Judging by the ease with which they laugh and relate to each other, one gets the sense that this new journey is really going to be a fun one. Bring it on.

HEAVEN'S
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To hear this interview, listen to future episodes of the HM Magazine Podcast

ALBUM REVIEWS



VIRGIN BLACK

REQUIEM – MEZZO FORTE

As loyal fans will attest, Virgin Black is a gifted band that consistently releases quality music. Highlighted with haunting melodies and gothic overtones, the challenge with their music has been accessibility. One doesn't simply listen to a Virgin Black album. To fully appreciate their music, all outside influences must be removed, allowing one to focus solely on each song as it plays. This may partially be why the band hasn't gained a greater following to date. If you can't enjoy the music while driving, working-out, playing video games or taking a shower, who has the time? Things are a little different with *Requiem*. With a heavier emphasis on classical arrangements and much stronger lead and choir vocals than in the past, Virgin Black has created an album that is sophisticated yet still approachable by the every day fan of hard music. The first installment of a trilogy (but actually the second movement in the requiem) *Mezzo Forte* is Virgin Black's best album to date and hopefully a precursor of things to come. [The End] Chris Beck



DELIVERANCE

AS ABOVE – SO BELOW

Weapons II? Give it up ... *Learn II?* Maybe ... better yet, this is Deliverance—hard hitting and in your face. Mike Phillips is back for a “stay of ‘axecution’” and shreds it up over top of Jimmy's crushing “leave-your-house in smithereens” riffs; the ...and *Justice for All* era kick drum tones and tom pounding are more than enough to create a disturbance in your local river; and Jimmy perfectly assimilates his thrash beginnings and his Bowie-esque alterna-leanings into one of his best vocal performances ever. There is just enough experimentation/ambience going on here to even earn this a progressive—in the changing sense—moniker. This may not be the divinely perfect *Learn* or the unabashed whiplash thrash of the self-titled debut, but make no mistake—this is an excellent, well-executed and much appreciated “return to form.” Yep, “D” is back, no joke. [Retroactive] Jonathan Swank



POWND

CIRCLE OF POWER

Pownd is an up and coming American band marrying power metal to the heavy groove of aggro metal, with just enough hints of prog metal to keep things commercially appealing. Readers familiar with the highly underrated band Krush from the late 90's will think they've found Krush's sonic twin with Pownd; they take the occasional foray into Ozzy era Sabbath, Ripper era Iced Earth and (gasp) even deliver a couple of radio friendly tunes. For those purists with discriminating taste, Pownd can easily be described as a positive metal band (as with most Nightmare Records releases) but despite ads for *Circle of Power* in Heaven's Metal, I could not really confirm or deny that they are a Christian band. One last word of warning: I'm fairly certain I picked up the “d” word once during “Blind”—caveat emptor. Nevertheless, this is a solid debut. [Nightmare] Chris Gatto



TITANIC

FULL STEAM AHEAD

Good news: this is a fantastic, heavy-edged melodic metal release—pure-blooded classic metal with some of the best guitar work I have heard Bill Menchen perform to this day ... and new vocalist David St. Andrew ... wow, where did he come from? He has a great and powerful vocal style. The bad news (to me at least): where did the new vocalist come from? I was all hyped and ready for a new release with Simon's special vocal style. He does appear on the two bonus tracks, but that's not enough. I would have been just as satisfied had this been a release under a new band name. I was just expecting that classic Titanic sound and was disappointed (sort of) by this confusion. [Retroactive] Jeff McCormack



HIRAX

ASSASSINS OF WAR

Hirax is an old school thrash band from the era when the Big Four—Metallica, Megadeth, Slayer, and Anthrax—ruled the thrash metal world. Unfortunately, along with many other deserving metal mongers

like Testament, Overkill and Sacred Reich, they never achieved the level of success of their aforementioned brethren. For all intents and purposes Hirax is singer Katon de Pena. The lineup keeps changing, but he keeps talented musicians around him to kick out the thrash fast and furious. Glenn Rogers (of Vengeance/Deliverance/ Once Dead fame) plays lead guitar on several of their albums, including this one. Hirax has never claimed to be a Christian band, but I challenge you to read the lyrics of “Lucifer's Inferno” or songs from any of their albums since 1984 and tell me the author (Katon) is not a believer. Detractors will say that once you've heard one Hirax album you've heard them all. This is true, but there's something to be said for continuity in the metal world—“don't fix what ain't broke!” This 5-song EP is excellent material, though perhaps overshadowed by their previous full length *The New Age of Terror*. Thrash fans ignore at your own peril! [Black Devil Records] Chris Gatto



SUSPYRE

A GREAT DIVIDE

Another stellar progressive release, this is self-described as “a creative fusion of modern classical music, jazz, and progressive rock.” This disc is filled with melodic vocals, heavy guitars, amazingly radical drum playing—music that is in constant motion with constant time changes, yet maintains a melodic and symphonic feel. Fans of any modern prog-metal style should love this. While Suspyre is not a Christian band, their vocalist is a believer; as chief song writer, he gives the music a clean and often spiritual overtone. [Nightmare] Jeff McCormack

FEAST ETERNAL

PRISONS OF FLESH

An underrated album when it originally came out in 2000, the European-style death metal of *Prisons of Flesh* stands the test of time. The remastered tracks sound slightly more crisp and heavier, while the two new songs build anticipation for the new Feast Eternal album to be released later this year. Fans of no-frills death metal definitely shouldn't pass on this album a second time. [Open Grave] Chris Beck

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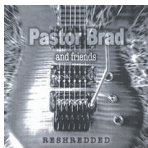


LO-RUHAMAH

THE GLORY OF GOD

Conveying emotion in a brilliant way whilst taking the listener on a journey, Lo-Ruhamah's first full-length album is a great piece of work that accomplishes its goal of creating a harsh yet beautiful atmosphere. No, the songs were not written for the sake of writing another song, but seem to fit together and form quite the cohesive piece of work. While I find the album enjoyable, it is also an album that takes time to enjoy. One must sit down and listen from beginning to end; let the music do its job and take you on the journey. Ok, so what style is it? Black Metal, with a touch of Death would be selling it short, so let's add to it some post rock, some ambient, and some ... well some other stuff too. With an album like this as their first, the future is looking bright for these guys!

[Bombworks] Michael Larson



PASTOR BRAD

RESHREDDED

I have spent more than twenty years enjoying the instrumental shredding by such talents as Vinnie Moore, Tony MacAlpine, David Chastain, Joey Tafolla, Vai, Satriani, etc., etc. So, I approached this CD with much curiosity. Low and behold, this CD shreds ... YES, smoking, blazing riffs and scales, all done with finesse and beauty. Pastor Brad certainly has the chops and blasts through what he calls 80's style metal with relative ease. Richard Lynch and Dee Harrington of Saint fame appear on this recording too. Man, would I love to play drums along side of this killer stuff. [Indie] Jeff McCormack

REDEEMER

DOUBLE EDGE SWORD / ANNO DOMINI

Redeemer was a band that existed from 1984-1989 and featured Bill Menchen (Final Axe, Titanic, Seventh Power, Rev Seven) on guitar and vocals. These two releases of eleven songs each contain songs from their 1986 demo, as well as unrecorded and lost songs. However, these songs have been fully re-recorded from scratch in 2007; two CDs worth of great melodic metal, preserving tunes from

days past, accompanied by Bill's unique vocal style. This is very reminiscent of his Seventh Power release. [Watergrave] Jeff McCormack



HORDE

ALIVE IN OSLO...

Hellig Usvart was the legendary Aussie Horde's magnum opus and swan song in 1994, so it is strange that Jason Sherlock accepted the offer to play *Nordic Fest* last year (as did his other band Paramaecium). The setlist is made up of the bulk of Horde's only album, and the band is fleshed out with members of the band Drottmar for this event. The production is raw, but it's great to hear this stuff live, especially the interaction with the audience—whose death metal growls are heard repeatedly—and Sherlock a.k.a. Anonymous, who never breaks character when he "speaks" to the audience. Also very appropriate is the addition of Pilgrim of Crimson Moonlight as special guest on several songs. All in all, this is a must have album if you are an extreme metal fan. Here's hoping a DVD is to follow.

[Veridon Music] Chris Gatto

V/A

UP FROM THE ASHES

This DVD contains highlights from both the *Up From the Ashes I* and *II* shows. While the two shows represented here included some great classic bands like Deliverance, Saint, Once Dead, Neon Cross, Laudamus, Tykkus and many more, and while it is cool to have this footage, overall, this DVD is a bit of a let down. For the *UFTA 2* clips, most every clip's audio is mono, except like one. The two Deliverance tracks sound as if they were recorded with a room mic (the rest do sound better, as if soundboard recorded). For the *UFTA I* show, while it is all in stereo, the vocal mix is near painful throughout. There is additional concert footage of other young bands, with similar poor sound quality. Bonus footage lists Final Axe, but it is only Bill Menchen and his guitar playing and singing to a pre-recorded track, and it is a Seventh Power track at that. I do hope one day they'll release entire shows of some of the bands, like Saint and Once Dead.

[Roxx Productions] Jeff McCormack

DAGON

PARANORMAL ICHTHYOLOGY

If one contends that it is within the scope of Christian liberty to submerge themselves down amidst the carnality of other-reality horror fiction, then one might find themselves taking up residence in the realm of Dagon. Far be it from me to make moral decisions for someone as blessed as they, for you see these gray areas are meant to be explored upon by one's own conscience. No, it is simply my duty to report the facts, as honest as I dare be. With tortured screams amidst chaotic rumblings I heard the sounds of amazing lead guitar work ... okay, enough feeble attempts at writing this review like H.P. Lovecraft. Dagon is a metal-core band with a great lead guitar player. There weren't really any stand out tracks on this for me; the more I listened the more the songs sorta bled one into the other. I enjoyed this, but didn't love it. [Bombworks] Michael Larson

MY SILENT WAKE

THE ANATOMY OF MELANCHOLY

This two-disc set starts off with a piano intro just before kicking into some dark and melodic riffage—some of the heaviest Ian Arkley has put out to date! The songs are long, riff-oriented and heavy as stink. Production is nice and thick—neither over-produced nor lo-fi—just perfect. Vocally, Ian has progressed from the days we were first introduced to his pipes on Seventh Angel's thrash classic *The Torment*. These are more death/doom oriented and should please even the most discriminating doom fan. Cleaner, sorrowful vocals are present intermittently adding various layers to the emotions being expressed. The keyboards are utilized in just the right places to add a nice ethereal feel as well. Ah, but the riffs. The riffs are classic Arkley—heavy and fast one second, melodic and piercing the next and slow and droning the next. Songs contain several movements and often approach or cross over the 10-minute mark. Take your time with this release and let the music sink in as it contains two full-length discs of pure doom. This is one of the better metal releases of recent years, especially for doom fans—definitely in the league of classics like *Lament for the Weary* and *Exhumed of the Earth*. [Bombworks] Loyd Harp



7DAYS BEARING THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD

BY JONATHAN SWANK

IT SEEMS THERE IS NEVER A SHORTAGE OF QUALITY MUSIC AND METAL COMING FROM SWEDEN. THIS PAST YEAR HAS BEEN NO EXCEPTION, WITH FANTASTIC ALBUMS FROM SCAR SYMMETRY, NARNIA, EVERGREY AND VETERAN CHRISTIAN METAL STAPLE VENI DOMINE. YET QUIETLY, AMIDST ALL THOSE BIG NAME RELEASES CAME 7DAYS, AN INCREDIBLE NEW PROJECT OF SONGWRITER/GUITARIST MARKUS SIGFRIDSSON (HARMONY, DARKWATER). MARKUS RECENTLY TOOK SOME TIME TO ANSWER A FEW BURNING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW ALBUM, TITLED *THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD*, HIS INSPIRATIONS FOR THE PROJECT AND HIS ROLE AS A CHRISTIAN ARTIST.

JS: Markus, congratulations on the release a world-class album!

MS: Thank you very much.

First of all, what kind of response have you had so far to the new CD?

The response has been pretty good—really good in the Christian realm, but good as well in the secular. Good reviews in *Rock Hard*, *Sweden Rock* magazine and *Close Up* (big Swedish mag).

Were you pleased with how it turned out? The production quality is first rate and the music sounds fantastic, a bit more powerful, diverse and symphonic than the Harmony release.

I think a lot of things could be better, but I think that is a natural feeling for a musician to have. I always want to improve on all levels—production, writing and playing, etc.—but since there were a lot of computer problems and things like that (I actually mixed the album twice on different locations) I'm happy with results. What I like with the production is that it has an acoustic feel over it, not quite as digital and maximized (loud) as modern metal is today. It's quite dynamic.

Given your involvement in Harmony and other projects, what prompted you to create 7days?

I write a lot of music/songs and found that I had a lot of material just lying around that I felt did not fit into the other bands that I play in. I've always had a special passion for symphonic and a bit epic music. I really felt that the songs were good enough to be released, and that's how I got the idea to form 7days.

How did you end up working with Daniel Flores on this project? It seems that you guys across the sea and at Rivel Records are very inclined toward collaboration projects.

I asked bass player Andreas Olsson if he knew any good session drummers that had their own studio to record in. Since it's a project, you don't want to put too much money in the recording process, since it's always a risk. 7days were not signed when the recordings started ... so he (Andreas) told me about Daniel Flores. Andreas had done some bass recordings for some of the artists that Daniel produces in his studio. Also, the guitars were already recorded before the drums, so I needed a drummer who would be really tight. I will never again record guitars before drums, I have to add, although he did a really good job.

I really love the title track, "The Weight of the World," it's just so dynamic—the choral elements, the keys, the crunchy guitar and the drums just all seem dialed in to perfection. Do you have a favorite song from the album or one that best exemplifies what you are trying to accomplish musically with 7days?

Thank you. Yeah, it's a dynamic song. My favorite song would probably be the title track, "Redeemer," although it could change from day to day. I also like the slow riff on "The Darkest Winter."

It's really cool that you included a cover of Veni Domine's "Wisdom Calls," probably one of the best Christian metal anthems of all time, in my opinion. Along those lines, what kind of musical influences do you and your band mates share?

Yes, that whole album is amazing really. I remember hearing that album



“I would rather be a part of the non-Christian market with a Christian message than just a part of the Christian market ... everything should be done in an honest way, from an honest heart.”

back in '92 or '93 for the first time. I was just blown away by it—the whole atmosphere of that album. Can only speak for myself here, but there are a lot of different music influences for all the members, not only metal. For me: Veni Domine, Symphony X, old Candlemass, Rainbow, In Flames, Nocturnal Rites and many more.

While solid lyrics have always been an integral part of metal, that seems especially true within the prog/power metal genre, the so-called “thinking man’s” metal. What were your inspirations for the lyrical concepts in *The Weight of the World* and what kind of message do you hope to promote with this release?

The lyrics are much about a search for guidance. They may seem a little dark at times, but always with a stream of hope. I try to write lyrics that the listener could relate to, rather than just push my beliefs on them.

I really like the message of hope in “Fall Again.” Can you summarize what that song means to you?

Well, it means that even if you have found your faith—salvation—you still will make mistakes and bad things will still happen to you, but in the end you will be free and not “fall again.”

There is an ongoing discussion in the pages of *Heaven’s Metal* and, I suppose, within the entire Christian music industry about the role of faith in metal. What role does your faith play in your music and in your opinion, what responsibility do Christian artists have to their listeners in that regard?

I think that there is (or at least has been) a lot of pressure on Christian artists. I would rather be a part of the non-Christian market with a Christian message than just a part of the Christian market, which seems to happen to a lot of Christian bands. I’m a musician who happens to be a Christian, so obviously, my faith will come through in my music. I think that if people write music because of a “responsibility” towards other Christians, the result won’t be very good anyway. Everything should be done in an honest way, from an honest heart.

Changing the subject somewhat, progressive metal is still a relatively underground phenomenon, despite notable bands like Dream Theater and Symphony X in the US; Threshold in the UK and Pain of Salvation and Evergrey in Sweden. Why do you think that is the case and how do you feel about progressive metal in general, and within the Christian market.

I guess it’s not easy listening music (don’t know how to say it). Most people

want metal like Maiden and Hammerfall. I think it always will be like that; that kind of music is much easier for people take in. I like some progressive metal, however, the melodies and feel should always be what are important, not the complex technical stuff.

Can you explain your approach to song writing?

Most of the music is based on riffs. I mostly get the chords first and then make melodies out of that. I also record all of my ideas/song ideas so that I don’t forget anything. I have my own little computer-based studio, “Tenement Studio.” Writing music is my main thing, playing guitar comes in second, although I couldn’t live without that either.

Who is your favorite Scandinavian metal band and why?

If I should only mention one it would be Yngwie Malmsteen. Well, at least his albums have had a big impact on me ... and I don’t only talk about the guitar playing, I like the music and atmosphere on the *Fire and Ice* and *Eclipse* albums.

What’s playing in your mp3 player or spinning in your disc changer these days?

Nocturnal Rites, Heed. I also listen to Killswitch Engage, Giant and older stuff like Dio and Rainbow.

Finally, will 7days be an ongoing endeavor and are there any plans to perform any of these songs in a live setting?

Not at the moment. Maybe, if the next album becomes a complete success. I’m working on a follow up to the first CD right now. All music and lyrics are written and the drums have already been recorded.

Thanks, Markus, for taking time out for the chat. Do you have anything you want to say to the readers of *Heaven’s Metal*?

I hope you like the album. I would also like to encourage people to support the bands that you really like by buying their music and not downloading it illegally. It makes a big difference. Take care and God bless.

HEAVEN'S
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WE WANTED



DELIVERANCE

A.K.A. "THE BIG D"

DANGEROUS, ARMED WITH SONGS

LIVE AND/OR IN STUDIO...

BY JEFF MCCORMACK

DELIVERANCE WAS WELL KNOWN FOR PUTTING OUT CUTTING-EDGE MELODIC THRASH EVER SINCE THEY BURST ONTO THE SCENE, EVEN PRIOR TO THE RELEASE OF THEIR 1989 FULL-LENGTH SELF-TITLED DEBUT. MANY ALBUMS AND MANY YEARS LATER, AFTER THE 1995 RELEASE *CAMELOT IN SMITHEREENS*, THE BAND DISBANDED. SIX YEARS LATER, THE BAND REARED ITS HEAD AGAIN FOR A REUNION SHOW AT THE 2001 CORNERSTONE FESTIVAL AND THAT SAME YEAR, RELEASED *ASSIMILATION*. THIS NEW CD WAS MET WITH VARIED REVIEWS AND FAN RESPONSES, BEING A SLIGHT DEPARTURE FROM THE STRAIGHT FORWARD THRASH ATTACK, TO A MIX OF HEAVY MUSIC WITH AN ELECTRONIC FEEL. HERE WE ARE AN ADDITIONAL SIX YEARS LATER AND THE BOYS ARE BACK WITH WHAT THEY CALL A TRUE DELIVERANCE REUNION CD, *AS ABOVE – SO BELOW*. I TRACKED DOWN THE VOICE OF THE BAND, JIMMY BROWN, AS WELL AS GUITARIST MIKE PHILLIPS, FOR THIS DISCUSSION ON 2007 AND THE BIG “D”

JM: Jimmy, you appeared in *Heaven's Metal* a couple issues ago in an interview discussing your new project *Jupiter 6*, and at that time there was also much discussion about the new upcoming *Deliverance* CD that was already in the works. Now that the CD is actually out, let us kind of pick up where that interview left off, and start by telling me the actual member line up for this new *Deliverance*.

JB: Well, it was me and Mike, obviously, and then our bass player Tim Kronyak. We originally had Kevin Lee (drums) on board with us when we restarted *Deliverance* last year, and then he unfortunately, due to his work schedule, could only spare a few moments with us at that time. So we sought out another drummer, and at the recommendation of Noah Bernardo from Rescue Records (who managed P.O.D. and is Wuv's dad) we were introduced to Mike Reed. Mike came in and blew us away with his solid meter and his intolerable approach to solid rock drumming, so he was able to finish what Kevin wasn't able to. So we started rehearsing a lot with Mike Reed, and then unfortunate circumstances happened, which were actually fortunate for the band; Kevin Lee's work schedule changed, and he was able to return and commit one hundred percent to the band.

In listening to the new tracks that I have heard from the new CD, I am impressed that while they have an updated feel, there is still a very strong return to a more classic Deliverance sound from the first couple CD's in both a vocal and musical way. With the current trends in thrash leaning to much more aggressive and the extreme music being fairly popular these days, how do you feel this CD will be received ... or do you care?

JB: I think me and Mike would both agree, we don't give a rip... (laughter explodes). We do what we do; we do what feels good to us. We've tried to do whatever we felt like doing. Mike and I would sit around and listen to the new stuff ... and Mike has his more modern rock/metal project *Fasedown* ... and we were talking and he said he really wanted to just get back to basics with some great melodic, technical, powerful metal. Because when we first got together, we weren't doing it for a new *Deliverance* release, were we Mike?

MP: Right. When I first got back in contact with Jimmy—through a mutual friend Jim Chaffin (*Fasedown*, *The Crucified*) who told me last year he had just talked to Jimmy—I couldn't believe it because I had been trying to get a hold of him for a couple of years. So I called Jimmy, told him *Fasedown* was not really too active, and I was working on some new demo stuff along the lines of prog-metal and thrash type stuff, and asked if he'd be interested in doing some vocals, and he said yes. The next day, Jimmy called me telling me he has been recently getting all these calls for *Deliverance* shows, and asked if I would be into it. My wife and I talked about it, and about the commitment it would involve, and then told Jimmy I was in. At that point, we were just going to do some shows and pull out the old stuff, but then decided to just go ahead and do a new album.

Okay, we saw a reunion record of sorts with 2001's *Assimilation*, which proved short-lived. What does a new album in 2007 mean, long term? Was this just a way to fulfill the cry of long-term fans with some new music? Will there be a tour? Is this a real reunion for the long haul, or just another one of Jimmy's side projects? What does the future hold?

MP: For me, this is exactly what I want to be doing in 07 ... this is where I am at ... I am so into this. Whatever gigs come up, I will pursue them. However long it lasts, I am loving it and this is where I am at.

JB: For me it is the same thing. It is a lot of fun. I enjoy jamming with Mike, and have always said over the years, even after Mike left; that out of the plethora of guitars players I have worked with ... (laughter)...that I always stated my all-time favorite to work with was Mike, simply because of his

style. The way he plays complements everything. He originally joined at an unfortunate time, as we were already established, we had a thing going, but I was already in another place in my head when Mike came into the picture. So poor Mike came in, and said, “Hey I've got some great ideas,” and I was like, “That's nice, save them for another time, because I've already got the album written, and I just need you to play.” Yet, even being stifled like that, he was able to take every rhythm I handed him, and just complements them with these beautiful solos that just blew me away every time I sat and watched him.

JM: I have heard comments and concerns about your theological stance. You mentioned in previous interviews your love of knowledge and your history of studying various other manuscripts and religious/philosophical writings. Where do you feel you stand in comparison with modern day traditional Christianity? Is this new *Deliverance* CD going to be blatantly Christian or do you feel you no longer fit in that category?

JB: I have personally removed myself from what is considered modern day Christianity. I do still love and adhere to the teachings of Jesus with every fiber of my being. I have always considered myself a believer, just not by today's standards of what is considered a Christian. Mostly because I feel that where it has gone and where it is today—and this isn't a critical statement, just a heartfelt statement—I just don't feel it really applies or adheres to what Jesus set out to do with his ministry. I think a lot of things over time were changed and continue to change from year to year, decade to decade, century to century. Things, in the name of progression and, dare I say, evolution, continue to move forward, moving away further and further from what Jesus' intentions were. That is why I personally have chosen to steer clear of it. As far as my perspective from lyrical writing, I don't think I stray in any way at all from the original teachings of Jesus, not at all. People may think it does, but it doesn't.

Bottom line is, we are a rock band. If we believe in Jesus and promote Christianity through our music ... great, so be it. But that does not make us a ministry. If you need and want a ministry, get plugged into your local church, get under a pastor that is a good honest preacher that wants to disciple you, and make you a disciple to all nations, so you can become that man, that workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly diving the word of truth, like the Apostle Paul says. If you're encouraged by the music, great! If you need ministering, go to church.

JM: Well, Jimmy, other concerns have arisen about the scantily clad and somewhat erotic art and graphics on your *Fearful Symmetry* site. People wonder why Jimmy has porn on his site (laughter).

JB: Well, there is a huge difference between pornography and just nudity. Classic artists of old ... in art that decorates even some Christian temples in Europe there is nudity because nudity is of God; God made us naked. What would shock people even more is that it is my wife that does all of those graphics—and not at my direction—but on her own. She is an artist, and she sees the naked body as God's creation. I personally have never had a big problem with pornography. Some people can't handle it, and some are not as tempted. To me, porn is just silly.

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THROWING DOWN THE GAUNTLET

By Steve Rowe

THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE SIMPLE AND FREE

In the Western world, in middle class America, Australia and Germany for example, the cost of living gets higher each year. It seems like the bills get bigger and our income stays the same. Plus, so many in the West over spend on credit cards and unnecessary luxuries just to keep up with the guy next door. That means longer working hours and less family time.

One simple rule we need to follow: give to God's work first before counting our debts. Giving, of course, is not just financial and also requires us to give our time and talents. Our Father God owns "the cattle on a thousand hills" and He takes care of us. Give for the joy of giving, not doing so to get (something in return). God knows what we need but does not bless our crazy spend ups on ourselves.

I was talking with my son Leighton the other day. I asked him what his favorite things in life were. Of course, he immediately reeled of the cost stuff: playing tennis, going to the movies, games, arcades and cool new things like iPods. That is all good & healthy, especially playing tennis—which he does 4 times a week—and we really love going to the movies for a special treat. Yes, and good-old Dad here likes to buy the occasional CD and go see bands play, which is luxury cost, of course. We don't need to cut this stuff out—just down ... way down.

Then I asked Leighton, "But really, what are the best things in life?" He said, "I love it when you pray for me at night, tell me stories and we talk about boys stuff ... playing with the boys next door ... playing board games with Mum and hanging out with my cousins." My favorite things are similar: eating dinner together as a family, talking about the day's events; sitting in church with one arm around Kate and one around Leighton. So, let us kick back and review our lives. What really is important? Maybe

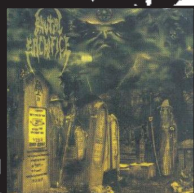


we can lose a lot of the expensive fluff in life, work fewer hours and concentrate on what really are our most precious things. The best things in life are simple and free—ultimately, the free gift of Salvation.

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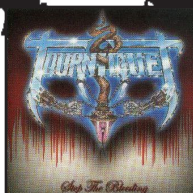
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PASTOR BOB'S INTERNATIONAL REPORT

As I travel the world, I notice more and more just how much music influences our moods, our convictions, and even a nation's political agenda. In more depressed countries where freedom is rare and poverty is great, the styles of music and the lyrics poured from their hearts are many times piercing to the spiritual ear. At times, music is used to stir the emotions of the masses. Other times, its purpose is to find hope in quiet solitude. I have experienced it all. Below are two good friends of mine. Both have something to say about the spirit of their countries. Jordan Marcellino was raised in Jerusalem, Israel. Dalen Johnson lives with his wife and children in Budapest, Hungary. Both, in my opinion, have a real heart for the pulse of their nations. Keep these guys – and these countries – in prayer!

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Israel, Hungary, & metal

Jordan Marcellino & Dalen Johnson



Jordan Marcellino – Jerusalem, Israel

The music scene in Jerusalem is much like that of the US—people writing about love, life and experience, just on a smaller scale. After all, Israel is the size of New Jersey. About a year ago, I had a surreal experience sitting on the beach of the Sea of Galilee. I was there with a



friend from Jerusalem playing a few originals when about six Israelis joined us. We traded off songs back and forth. One of them picked up the guitar and started playing songs like "Wonderwall" by Oasis, "Money" by Pink Floyd and others. I thought to myself, it doesn't matter who or where you are, the musical community of the world breaks every boundary. I sat there listening to these Israelis, God's ancient people of old, and there we were, playing Pink Floyd. Through the duration of the conversation my heart was grieved when I realized the spiritual state of these young Israelis, lost and blind. I thought, "How can we reach them?" I believe music is one of the more powerful mediums to do so. I know a man by the name of Rick Ridings who has a ministry called Succat Hallel (Tabernacle of Praise). It is dedicated to worshipping the Lord God of Israel, interceding for

the salvation of the people of Israel (Rom 11:26), and praying for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6). It is a ministry that goes 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is named after the Tabernacle of David and it is within walking distance of its original location in Jerusalem. If you would like to pray, pray that the Lord would continue to raise up ministries like Succat Hallel and that those "Who walk in darkness ... and live in the land of the shadow of death" (Isaiah 9:2) would be drawn to the Great Light, Yeshua (Jesus); that they would sense the Holy Spirit in these houses of prayer and be convicted of their sin and comforted in their confession and forgiveness and ultimately, their salvation. We must pray that the believers in the Land will keep writing songs of the truth to reach out to this generation, particularly in the land of Israel. The Lord is calling a generation to rise up in spirit and in truth, to live holy lives, uncompromised before the Lord and shine the marvelous light of Yeshua (Jesus) to all men.

Dalen Johnson – Budapest, Hungary

Quite often people jest with the name of Hungary due to the perceived similarity in sound of the country's name to that of our word in English, which describes the need for food (hungry). As humorous as this may be initially, it ironically points to the reality of a much deeper truth which adequately describes the state of the nation. Not that of physical hunger, but a hunger that comes straight out of the core of a person's spirit. The Hungarian nation prides themselves in their science and arts. They work diligently from

childhood to hone and perfect their given talent. Despite this outward attempt for self-improvement and a betterment of life, it does not reach and address the core issue of the soul. The spiritual oppression of this nation can literally be felt upon crossing the border. Great is the darkness, but the light that shines within is even greater. This light does not come from that of the many "empty" church buildings that can be found teaching a Puritan type truth in hopes to fill the void left by Communism—"white-washed tombs." The light comes from within the "breathing" heart of the individual whose life has been affected and forever changed by the Truth. It's no longer about doing, but "being." All action comes from the source of life within us. "I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." This action takes form and expresses itself through many facets of our lives, such as through our talents: art, music, etc. Hungary is rich with various styles of music,



and if anything, music is one of the talents utilized (though unconsciously) as a reminder that there is something deeper and more meaningful than the temporal things which tend to trouble and ensnare us. May the people here in Hungary realize and recognize the "still" voice that calls to them through the gifts given to them.

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